



# THE WALKING DEAD

45



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IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

# THE WALKING DEAD™

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## Previously:

Woodbury, led by the governor, finally attacked. It wasn't pretty. Rick and Andrea have both been shot.

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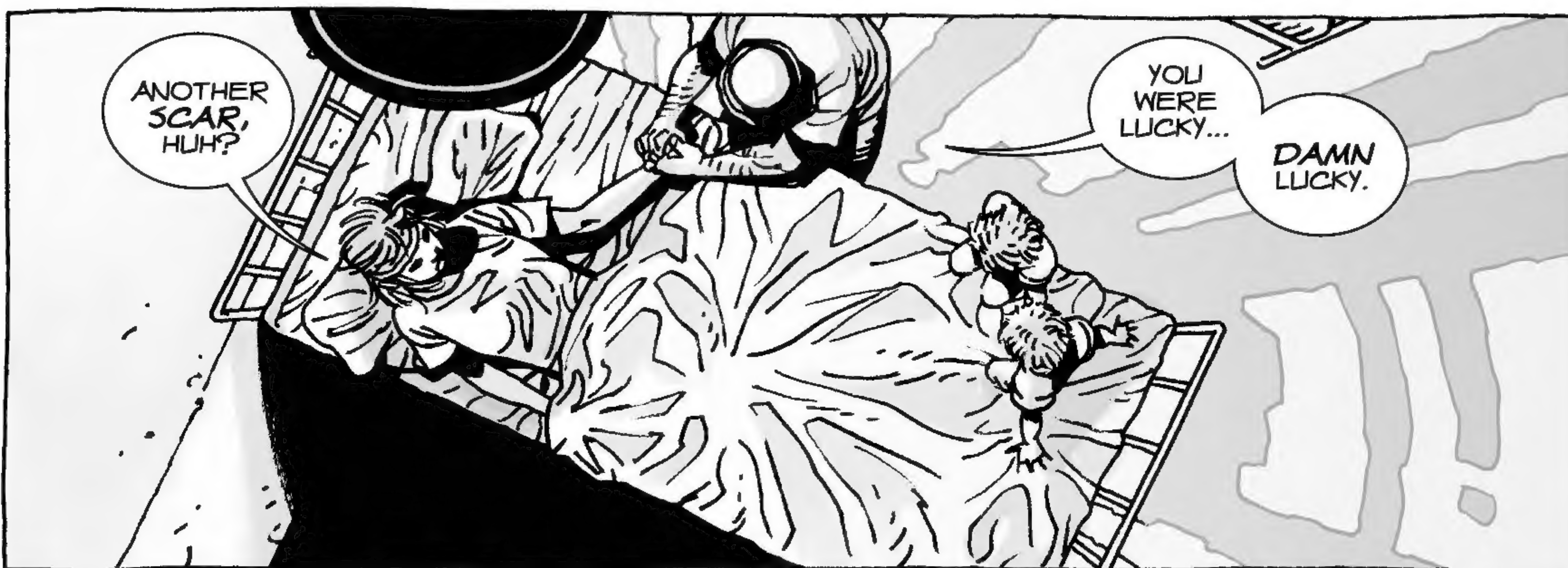
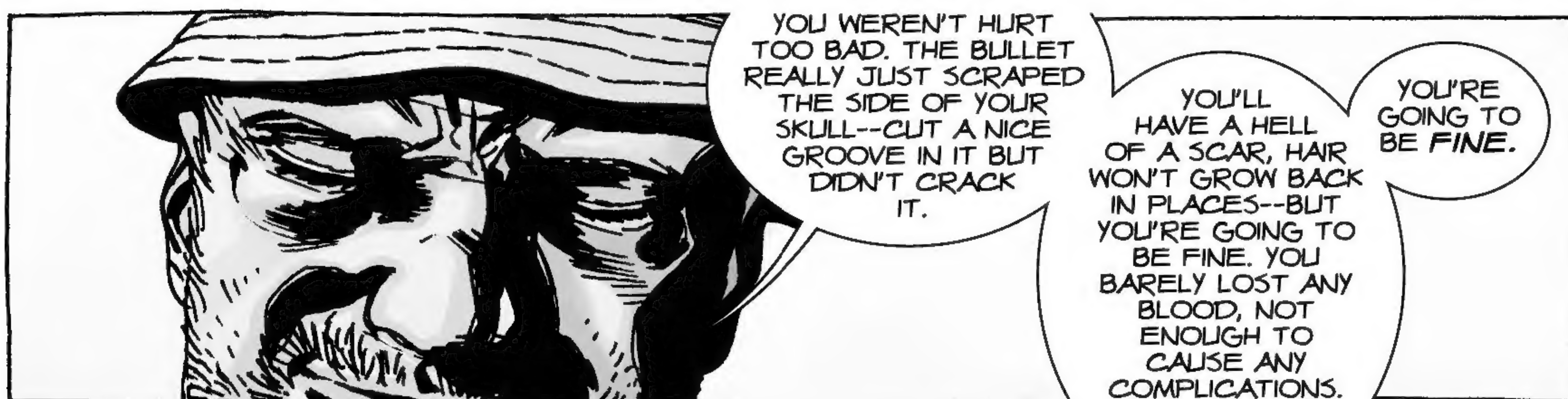
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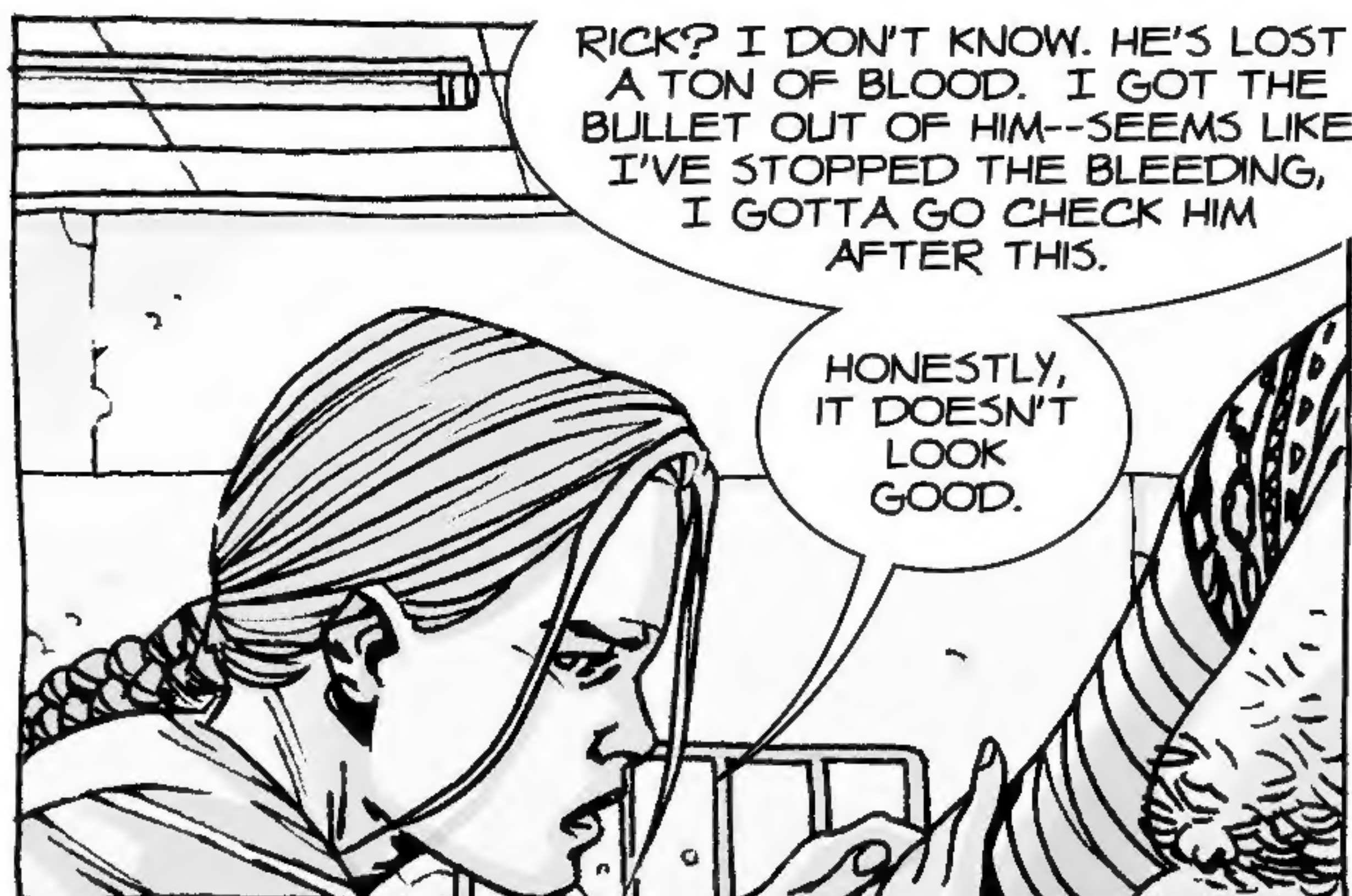
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I DON'T KNOW, BUT THE TRANSFUSION SEEMS TO HAVE GONE FINE... SO THINGS ARE LOOKING BETTER.

THAT'S GOOD. THANKS FOR CHECKING FOR ME.

I'M WORRIED TOO. IT'S OKAY. I--ANDREA, WE NEED TO TALK.



DO YOU REMEMBER A WHILE BACK WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT GOING OUT ON OUR OWN? TAKING THE RV AND JUST DRIVING?

I THINK NOW IS THE TIME.

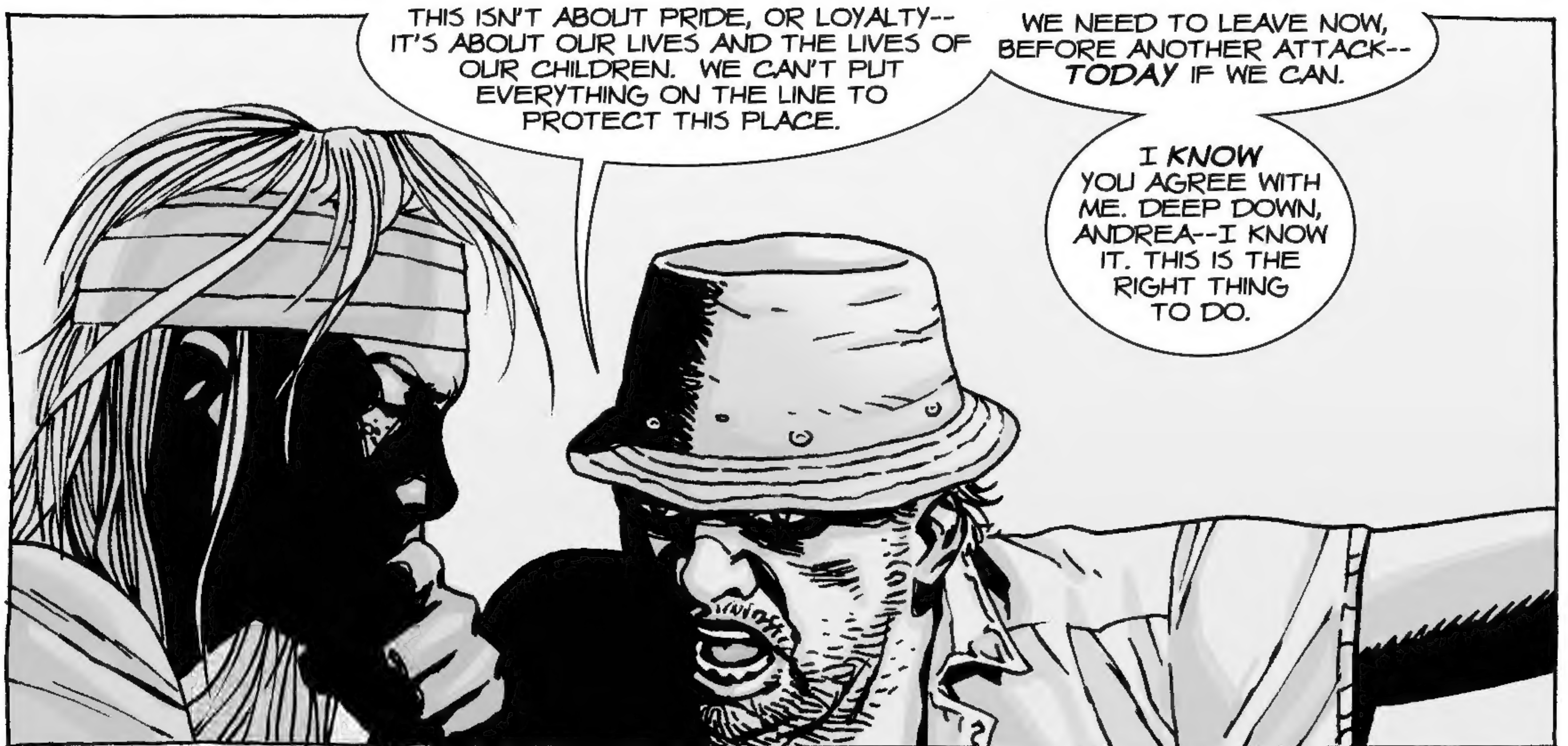


YOU WANT US TO LEAVE THESE PEOPLE, OUR FRIENDS, NOW-- IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS?!

LEAVE, YES. LEAVE *THEM*? ONLY IF THEY REFUSE TO COME WITH US. WE JUST NEED TO GET OUT OF THIS PRISON. LET THOSE CRAZY PEOPLE TAKE IT--GIVE IT TO THEM.



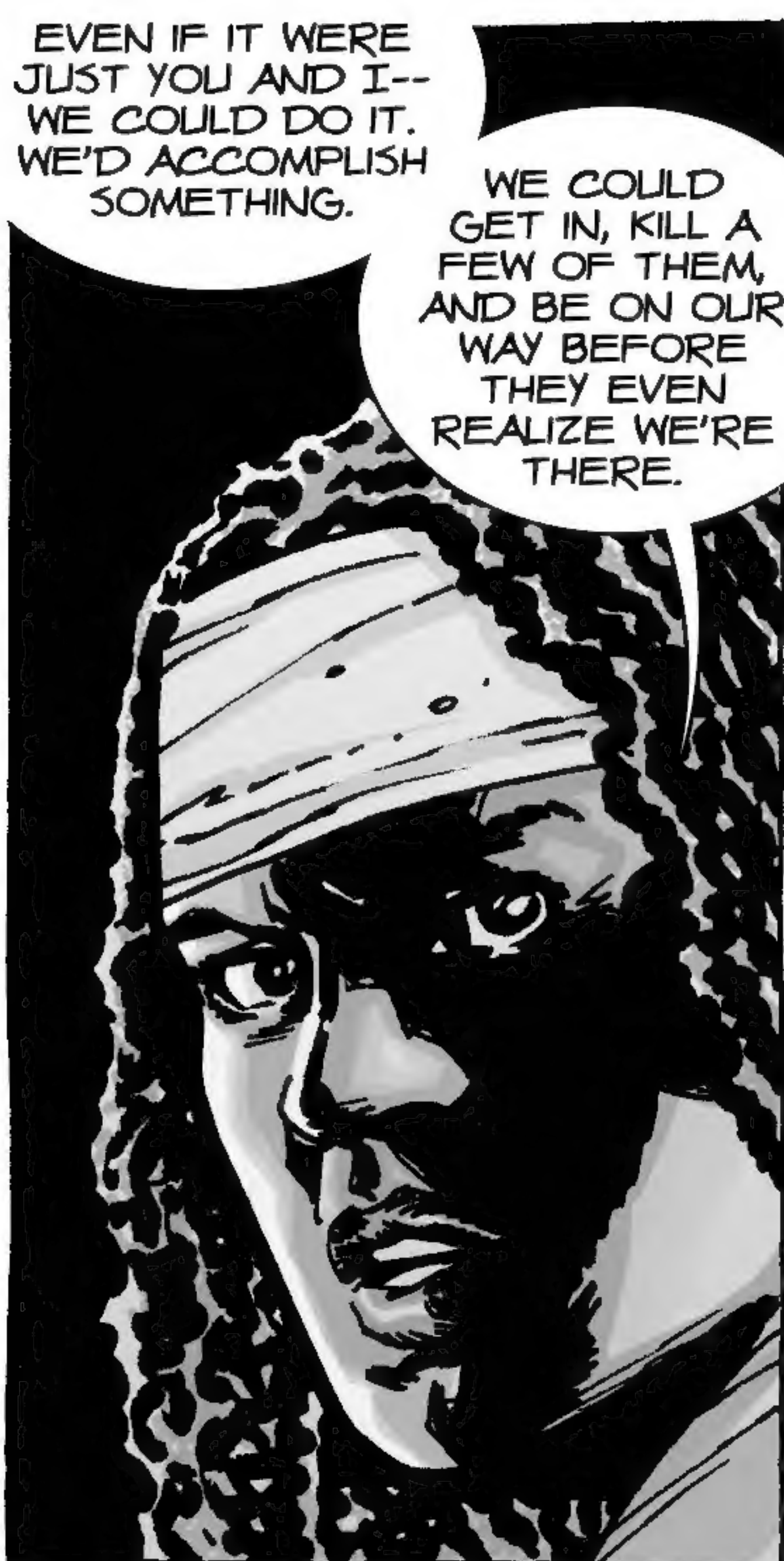
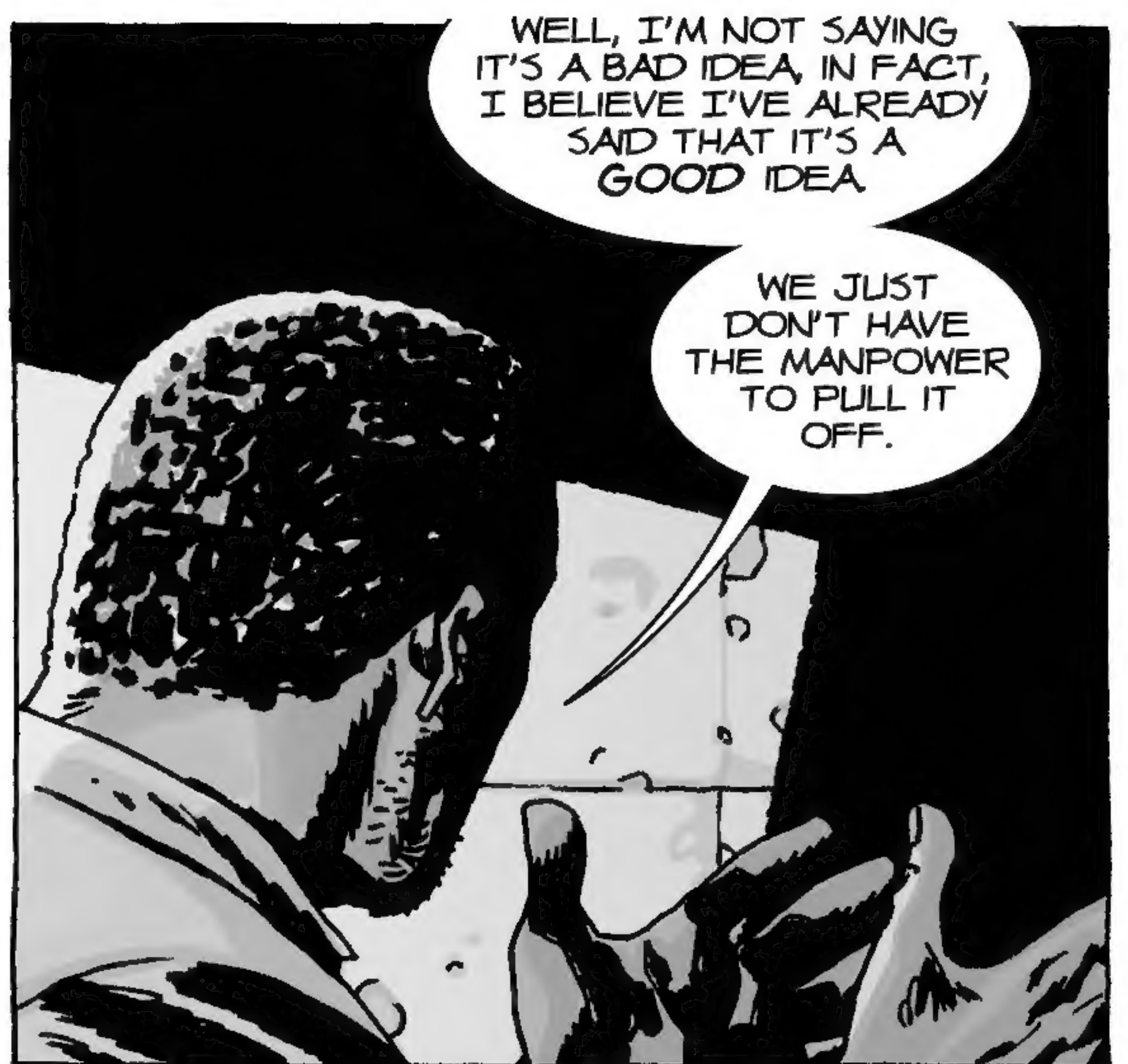
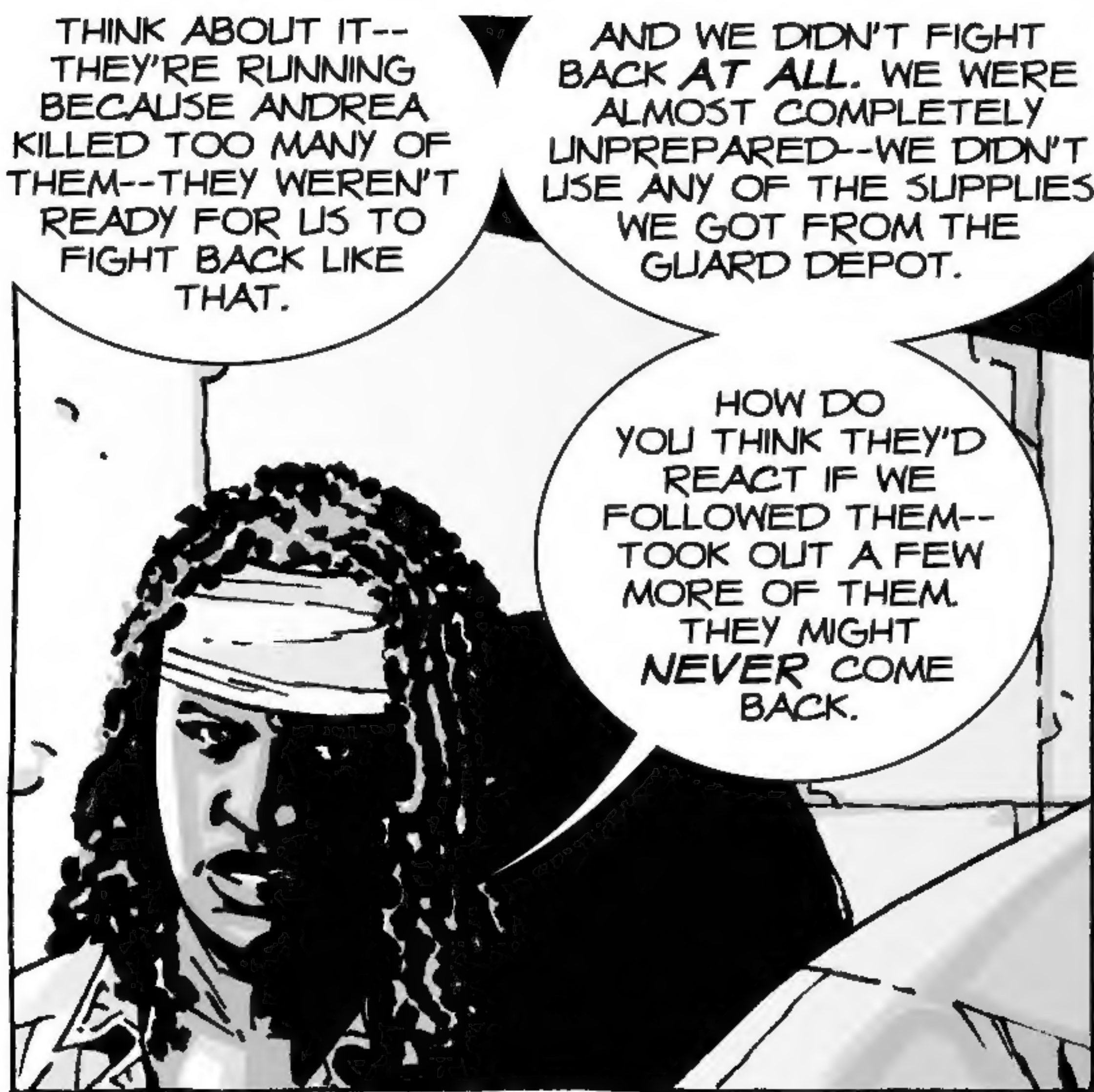
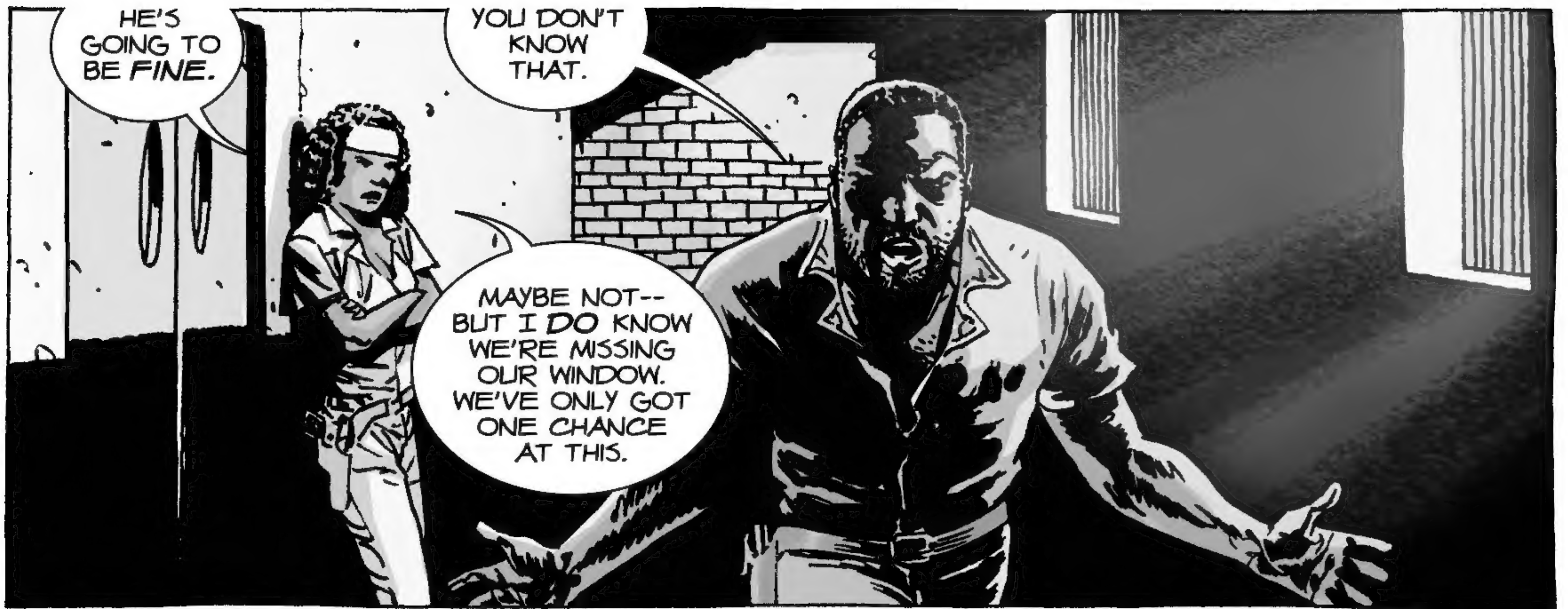
THESE ARE OUR LIVES WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE.

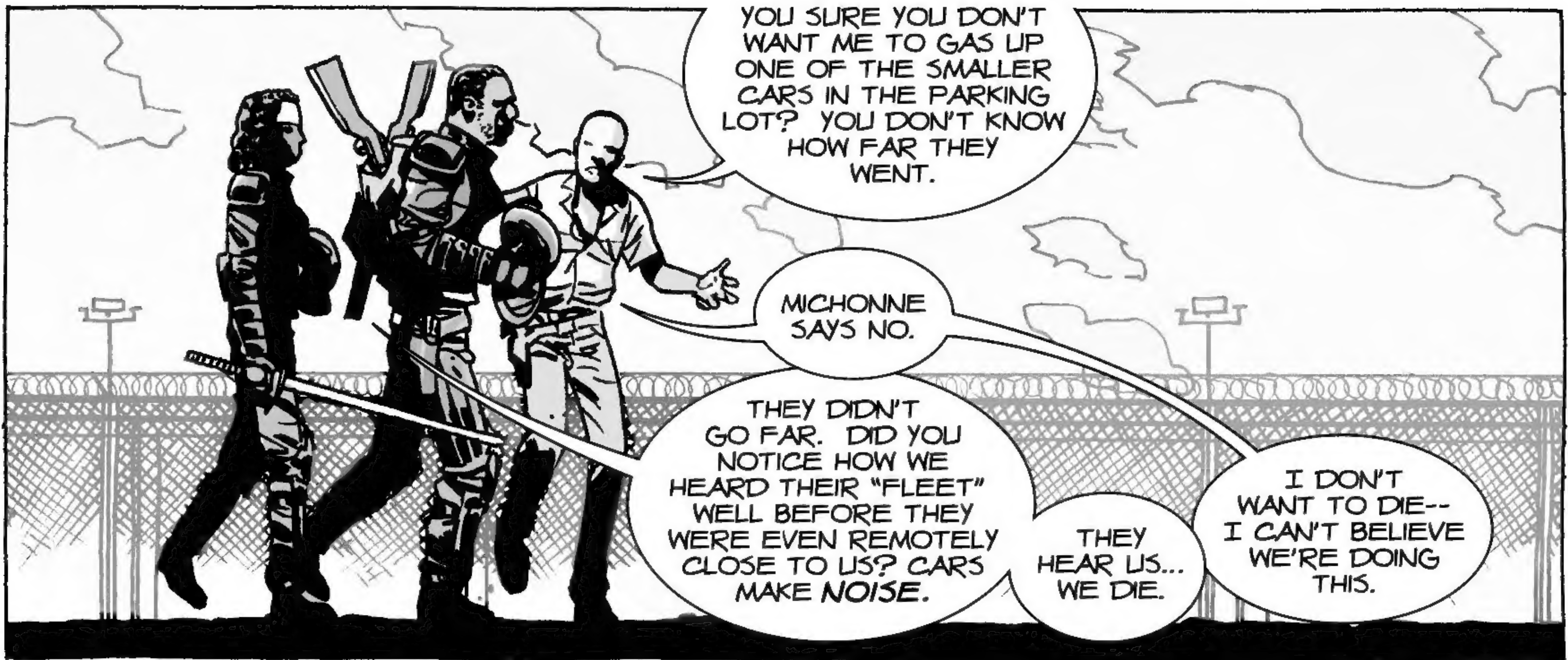


THIS ISN'T ABOUT PRIDE, OR LOYALTY-- IT'S ABOUT OUR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN. WE CAN'T PUT EVERYTHING ON THE LINE TO PROTECT THIS PLACE.

WE NEED TO LEAVE NOW, BEFORE ANOTHER ATTACK-- TODAY IF WE CAN.

I KNOW YOU AGREE WITH ME. DEEP DOWN, ANDREA--I KNOW IT. THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.





YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GAS UP ONE OF THE SMALLER CARS IN THE PARKING LOT? YOU DON'T KNOW HOW FAR THEY WENT.

MICHONNE SAYS NO.

THEY DIDN'T GO FAR. DID YOU NOTICE HOW WE HEARD THEIR "FLEET" WELL BEFORE THEY WERE EVEN REMOTELY CLOSE TO US? CARS MAKE NOISE.

THEY HEAR US... WE DIE.

I DON'T WANT TO DIE-- I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE DOING THIS.

YOU NEED TO HURRY, MAGGIE AND PATRICIA GOT THEM OFF THE GATE BUT THE ROAMERS ARE NOTICING AXEL AND I--THEY'RE COMING BACK.

OPEN IT.

YOU BE CAREFUL OUT THERE. BILLY'S ON TOWER DUTY NOW, HE'S THE BEST SHOT AFTER ANDREA. HE'LL BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR YOU.

MAKE SURE YOU COME BACK, IF YOU DON'T KILL THEM ALL, WE'LL NEED YOUR HELP.

I'LL TRY NOT TO LET YOU DOWN.

WELL, GIRL--WE RUNNING THIS?



OVER THE OPEN AREA AROUND THE PRISON? YEAH. IF THE GOVERNOR WAS SMART... HE'D HAVE LEFT A COUPLE SNIPERS IN THE TREE LINE, WAITING TO SEE IF WE LEAVE OR COME AFTER HIM.

IF HE WERE EVEN SMARTER, HE'D HAVE THEM WAIT UNTIL WE GOT TO THE TREE LINE SO OUR PEOPLE IN THE PRISON WOULDN'T KNOW THEY WERE OUT THERE.

I'M COUNTING ON HIS ARROGANCE KEEPING HIM FROM DOING EITHER, BUT JUST THE SAME, KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN AND HELMET ON.

WE GET SHOT AT--WE TURN AROUND AND GO BACK TO THE PRISON IMMEDIATELY.

DEAL.

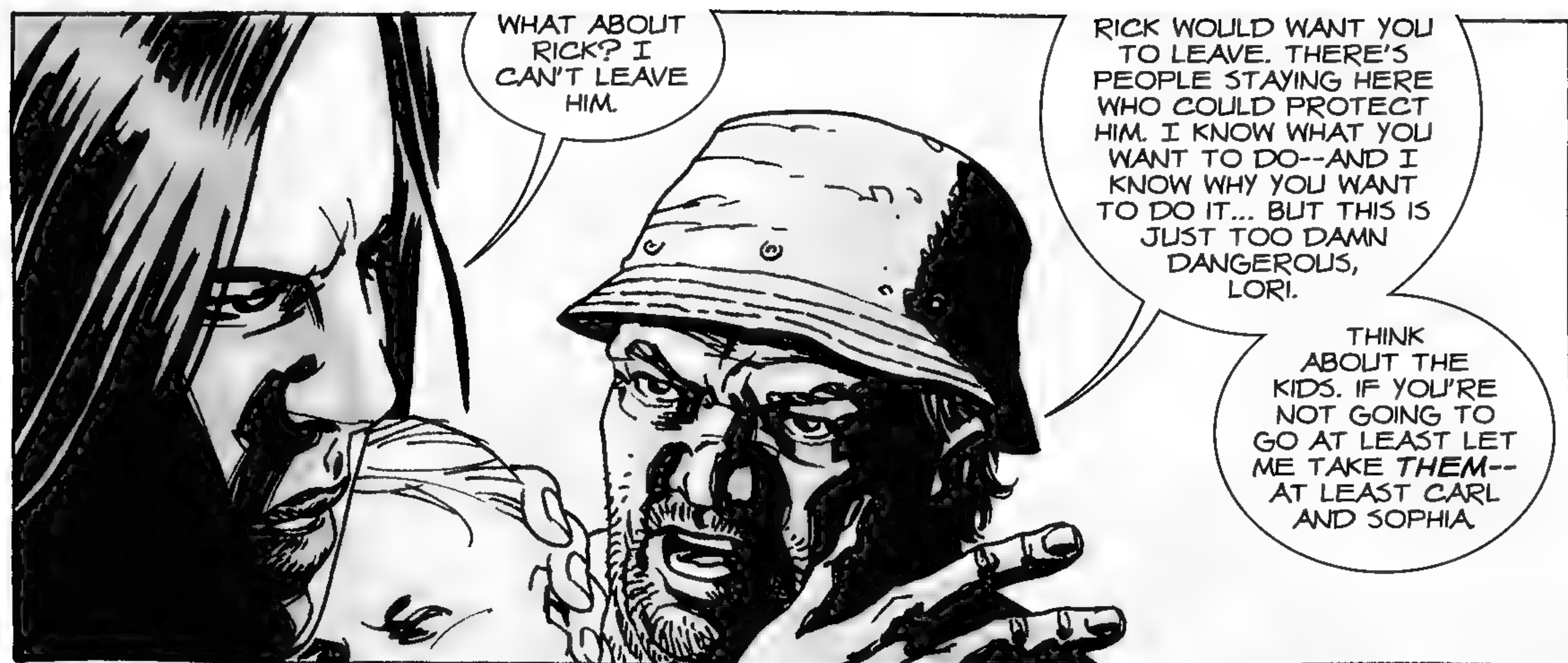




YOU'RE LEAVING US? HOW CAN YOU DO THAT? JESUS CHRIST, DALE!

I'M NOT LEAVING YOU. I WANT TO TAKE YOU ALL WITH US. WE SHOULD LEAVE HERE--WE DON'T NEED TO FIGHT FOR THIS PLACE.

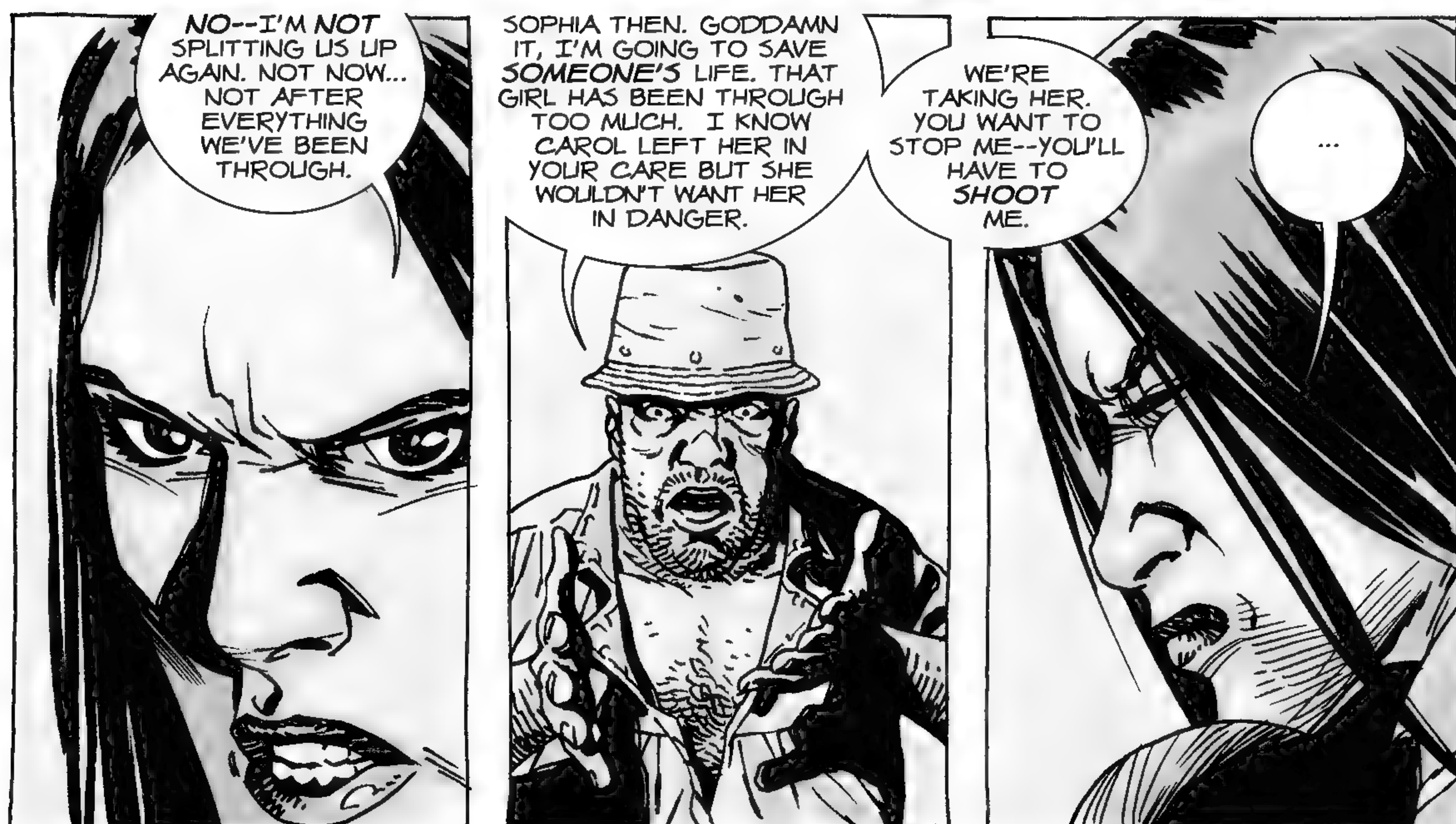
HERSHEL AND BILLY, THEY'RE STAYING. AXEL ISN'T LEAVING. EVEN PATRICIA WANTED TO STAY--BUT YOU'VE GOT KIDS. I WAS HOPING I COULD TALK SOME SENSE INTO YOU.



WHAT ABOUT RICK? I CAN'T LEAVE HIM.

RICK WOULD WANT YOU TO LEAVE. THERE'S PEOPLE STAYING HERE WHO COULD PROTECT HIM. I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO--AND I KNOW WHY YOU WANT TO DO IT... BUT THIS IS JUST TOO DAMN DANGEROUS, LORI.

THINK ABOUT THE KIDS. IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GO AT LEAST LET ME TAKE *THEM*--AT LEAST CARL AND SOPHIA.

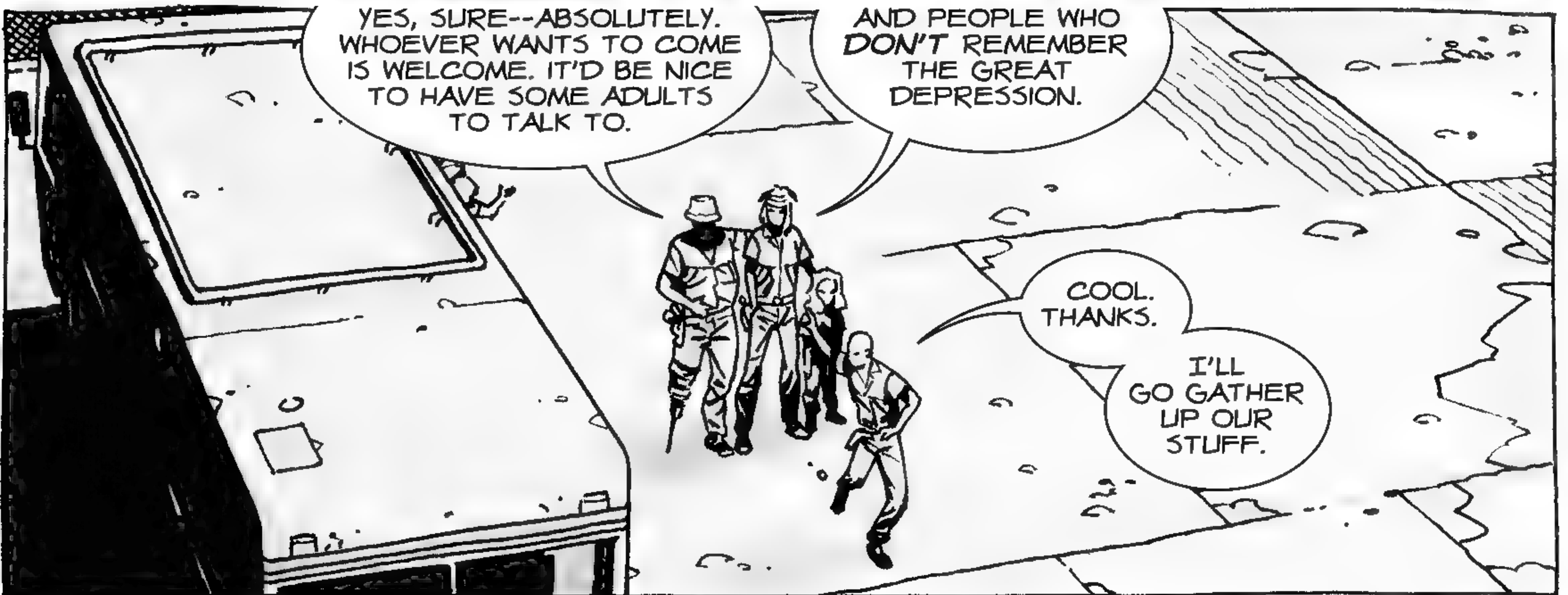
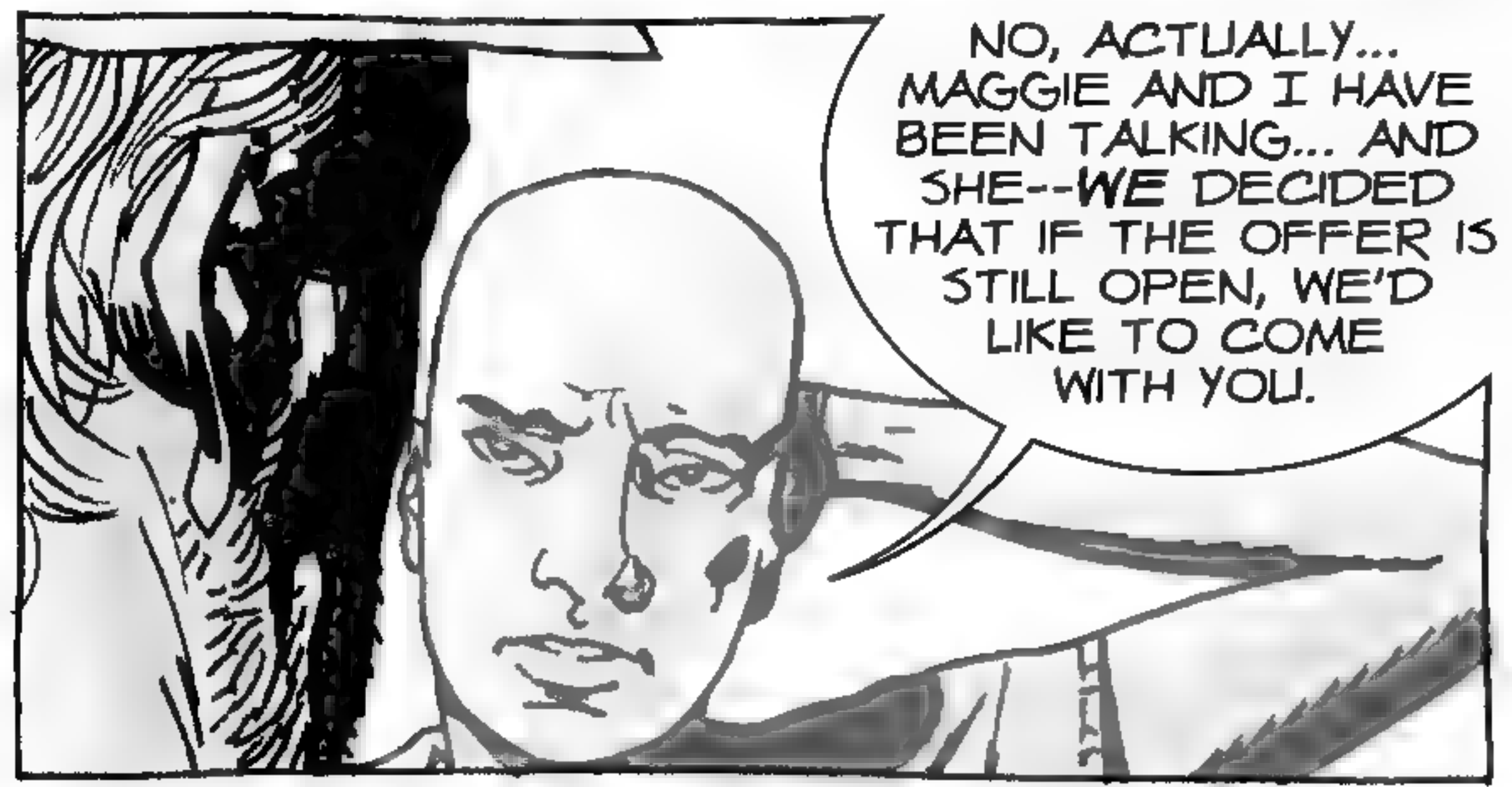


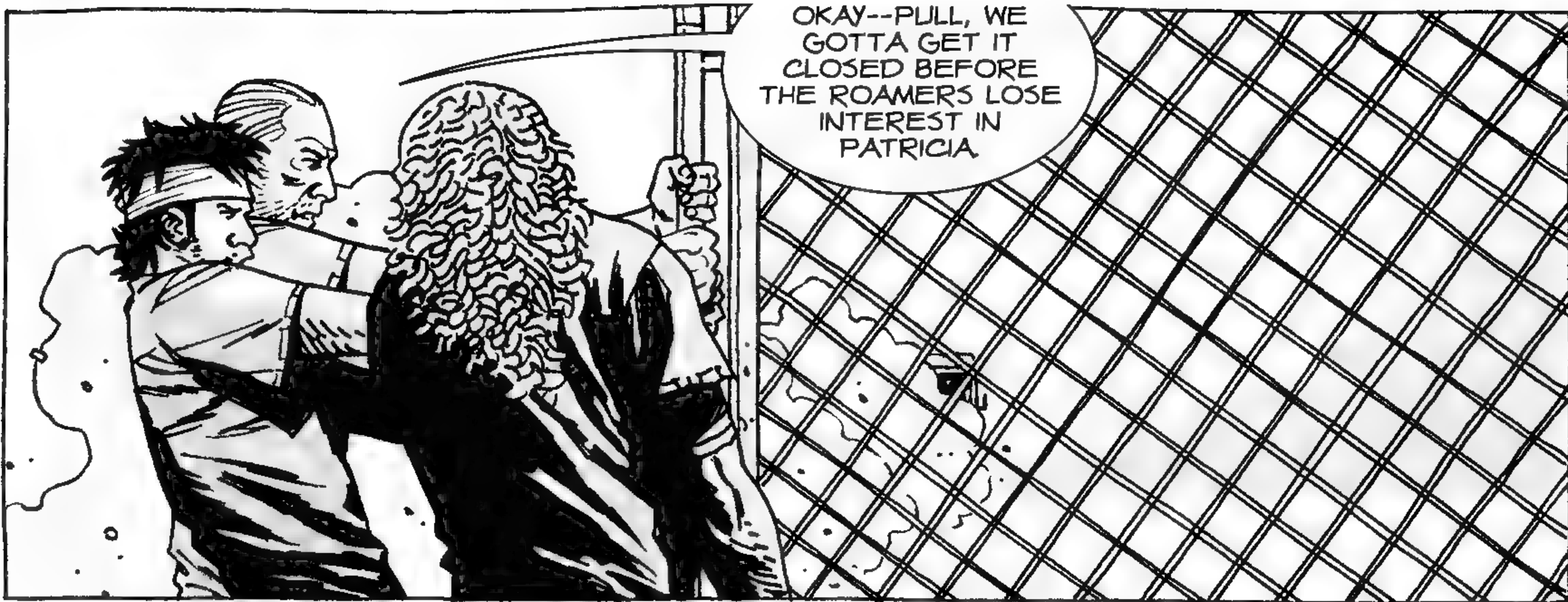
NO--I'M NOT SPLITTING US UP AGAIN. NOT NOW... NOT AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH.

SOPHIA THEN. GODDAMN IT, I'M GOING TO SAVE *SOMEONE'S* LIFE. THAT GIRL HAS BEEN THROUGH TOO MUCH. I KNOW CAROL LEFT HER IN YOUR CARE BUT SHE WOULDN'T WANT HER IN DANGER.

WE'RE TAKING HER. YOU WANT TO STOP ME--YOU'LL HAVE TO *SHOOT* ME.

...





ONCE WE  
GET THE CARS  
MOVED INTO POSITION--  
WE'LL HAVE YOU PUT  
THOSE GRENADES  
BEHIND EACH CAR.  
WE'LL HAVE GRENADES  
STATIONED ON EITHER  
END--AND WE'LL STASH  
THE GUNS AND AMMO  
IN THE MIDDLE--  
CENTRAL  
LOCATION.

I GOT IT--  
I REMEMBER  
THE PLAN.

HOW EXACTLY IS THIS  
GOING TO WORK, DAD?  
WITH RICK LAID UP,  
DALE'S CREW IS GONE,  
AXEL'S ONLY GOT ONE  
GOOD ARM--AND  
TYREESE AND  
MICHONNE...

WE WERE  
OUTNUMBERED  
BEFORE.

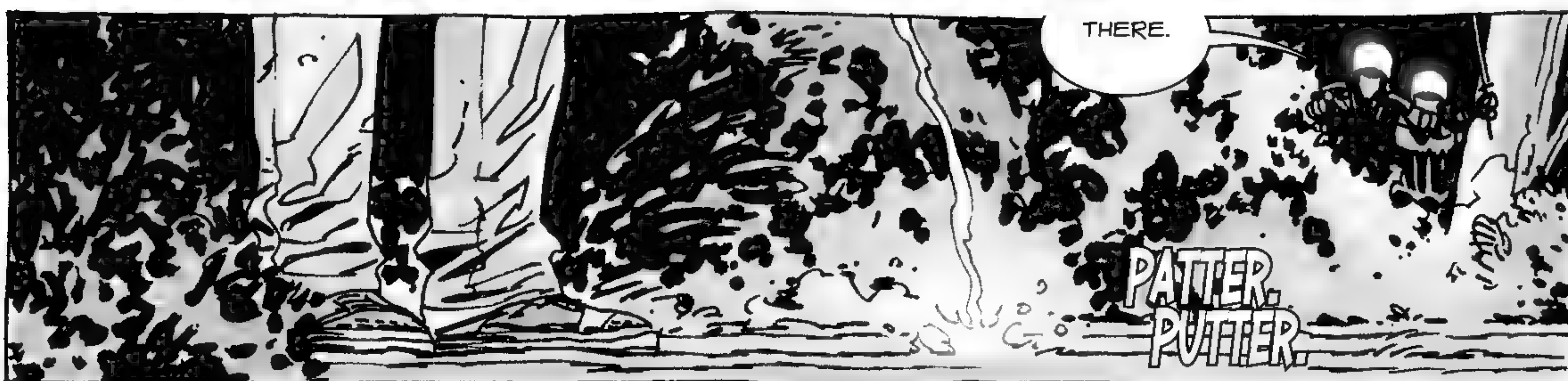
WELL, TYREESE AND MICHONNE  
WILL BE BACK BEFORE THE  
PEOPLE OF WOODBURY GET  
HERE--BUT ASIDE FROM THAT,  
WE'VE GOT ONE THING THAT  
THEY DON'T HAVE THAT'LL  
ENSURE WE WIN.

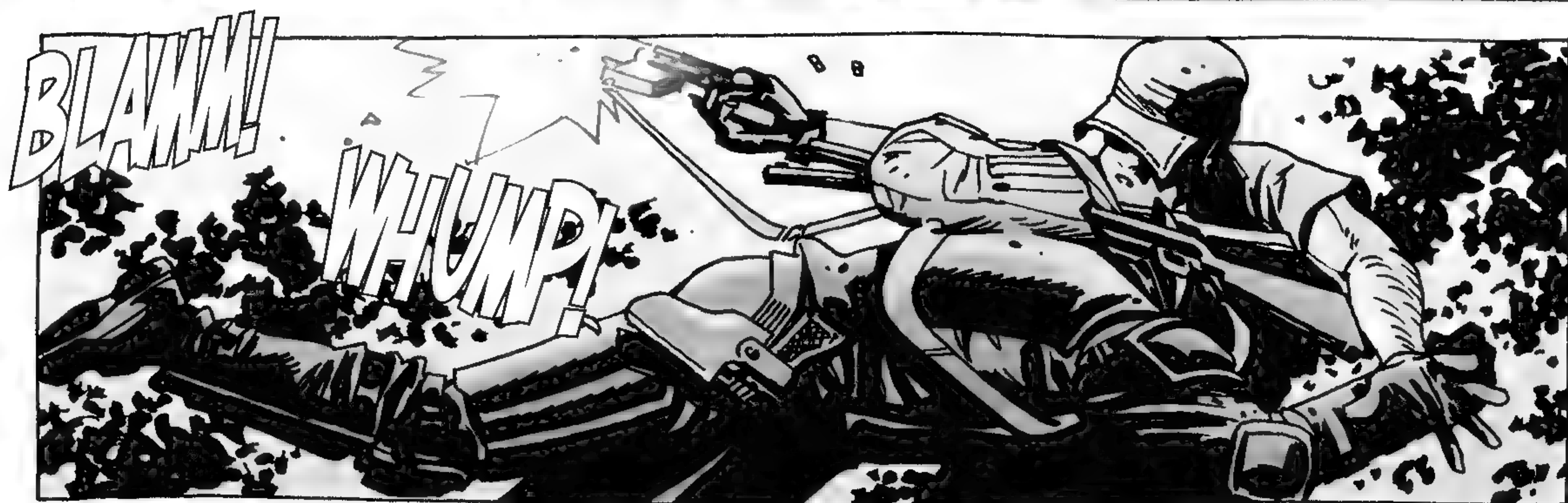
WE'VE  
GOT GOD  
ON OUR  
SIDE.

WELL, I  
HOPE GOD  
BRINGS MORE  
GRENADES.

HE'S STABLE,  
BUT I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT ELSE  
I CAN DO FOR  
HIM--HE JUST  
NEEDS REST.

I HOPE HE DOESN'T  
NEED TOO MUCH REST.  
I HATE THAT HE HAS  
TO CARRY THIS BURDEN--  
BUT I KNOW WE WON'T  
GET THROUGH THIS  
WITHOUT HIM...





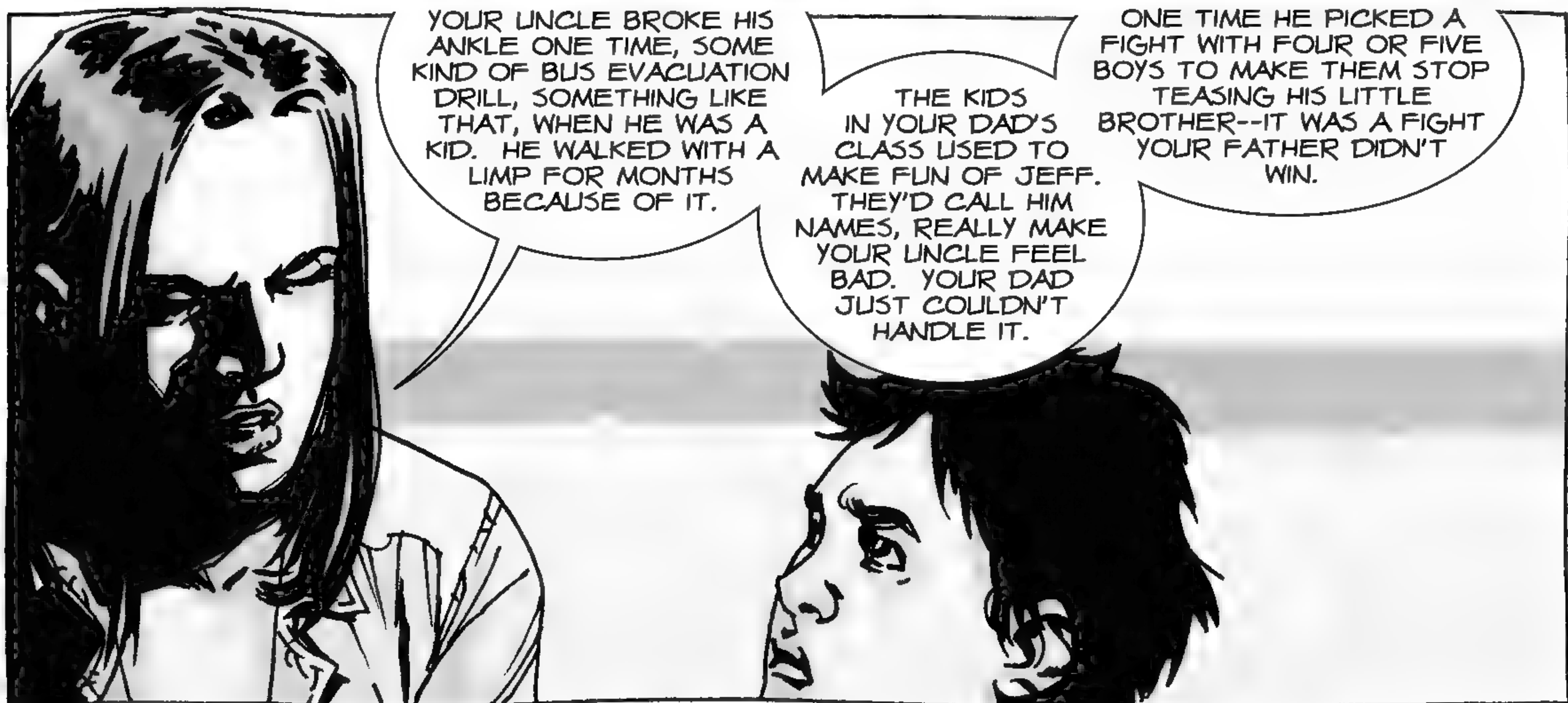




YOU REMEMBER  
YOUR UNCLE  
JEFFERY,  
RIGHT?

RIGHT, YOUR DAD'S  
YOUNGER BROTHER.  
HE DIDN'T COME  
AROUND MUCH AFTER  
YOUR FATHER AND I  
WERE MARRIED.

YEAH,  
UNCLE  
JEFF.



YOUR UNCLE BROKE HIS  
ANKLE ONE TIME, SOME  
KIND OF BUS EVACUATION  
DRILL, SOMETHING LIKE  
THAT, WHEN HE WAS A  
KID. HE WALKED WITH A  
LIMP FOR MONTHS  
BECAUSE OF IT.

THE KIDS  
IN YOUR DAD'S  
CLASS USED TO  
MAKE FUN OF JEFF.  
THEY'D CALL HIM  
NAMES, REALLY MAKE  
YOUR UNCLE FEEL  
BAD. YOUR DAD  
JUST COULDN'T  
HANDLE IT.

ONE TIME HE PICKED A  
FIGHT WITH FOUR OR FIVE  
BOYS TO MAKE THEM STOP  
TEASING HIS LITTLE  
BROTHER--IT WAS A FIGHT  
YOUR FATHER DIDN'T  
WIN.



BUT HE DIDN'T  
CARE--AS LONG  
AS HIS BROTHER  
WAS OKAY.

THAT'S--

THAT'S  
THE KIND OF  
MAN YOUR  
FATHER IS,  
HE--



HE TRIES TO DO  
WHAT HE BELIEVES  
IS RIGHT--EVEN IF  
IT'S GOING TO HURT  
HIM. HE WAS LOYAL  
TO THOSE HE  
LOVED HE--

HE  
WOULD  
NEVER--



LORI,  
DON'T  
CRY.



I'M  
GOING  
TO BE  
FINE.

C'MON...

IT'S JUST A  
SCRATCH.



OH, RICK--OH,  
GOD. THIS TIME,  
YOU REALLY--  
YOU REALLY--

I KNOW,  
LORI. I KNOW.  
IT'S OKAY.  
I'M FINE.

LET ME  
SEE THAT  
GIRL.



LITTLE JUDY, I  
HAVEN'T EVEN  
HAD TIME TO  
GET TO KNOW  
YOU YET.

I'M NOT  
GOING TO LEAVE  
BEFORE I DO  
THAT, YOU CAN  
BET ON IT.



I WASN'T  
WORRIED, DAD.  
I KNEW YOU'D  
BE FINE.

I KNOW,  
SON.

YOU KNOW  
HOW TOUGH  
YOUR DAD IS.



OKAY--OKAY,  
GOOD. THAT'S  
A LOAD OFF  
MY MIND.

HEY,  
ALICE... YOU  
THINK YOU  
COULD FIND  
ME DALE'S  
CRUTCHES?

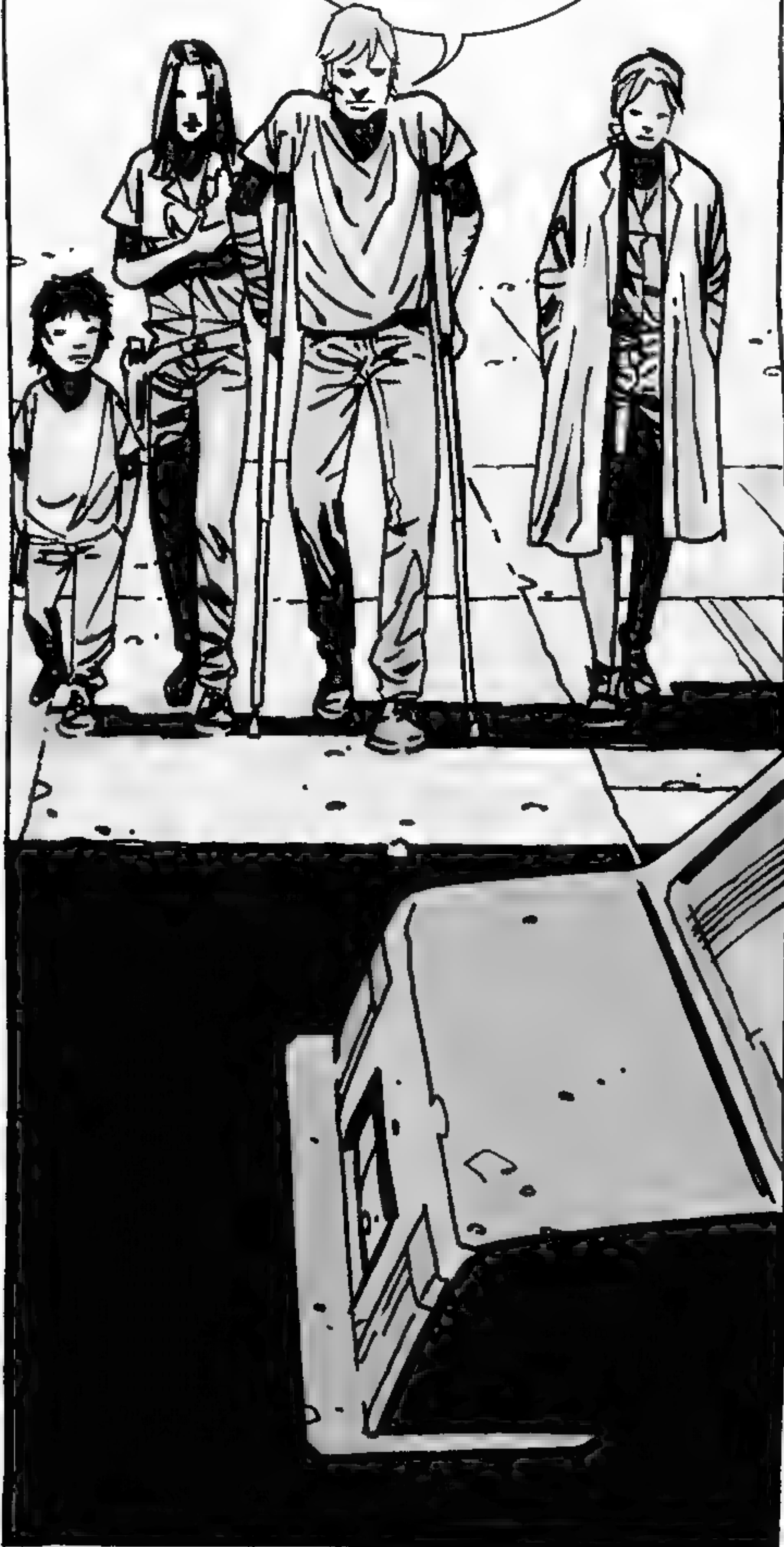
GLENN GOT THESE CARS IN HERE? THAT'LL HELP.

WE'LL AT LEAST HAVE COVER FOR WHEN THEY COME BACK-- THE PRISON AT OUR BACK, THE CARS IN FRONT OF US. WE SHOULD PROBABLY BLUST THE WINDOWS OUT OURSELVES BEFORE THEY ARRIVE...

WE DON'T NEED THE GLASS FLYING ALL OVER THE PLACE.

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE PREPARED FOR THE WORST.

THESE WILL COME IN HANDY. I HOPE THERE'S SOMEONE WHO CAN LOB THEM OVER THE FENCES-- BECAUSE, THAT AIN'T ME.



I TAKE IT WE'VE GOT THE TOWERS LOADED WITH WEAPONS FOR ANDREA?

CAN SOMEONE GET GLENN? I THINK I'D LIKE TO PUT SOME CARS OUT IN THE FIELD IN FRONT OF THE PRISON-- MAYBE WE CAN SHOOT THE GAS TANKS AND CAUSE A FIRE OR AN EXPLOSION OR SOMETHING.



UH...

WHAT IS IT?

THEY'RE GONE.

WHO'S GONE?

DALE, ANDREA, THE TWINS, GLENN AND MAGGIE LEFT IN THE RV... THEY TOOK SOPHIA WITH THEM AS WELL.

TYREESE AND MICHONNE WENT AFTER THE GOVERNOR. THOUGHT THEY'D SURPRISE THEM, TAKE OUT AT LEAST A FEW OF THEM BEFORE THEY RETREATED BACK HERE.

BILLY IS UP IN THE TOWER WATCHING FOR THEM NOW.







WHAT THE  
FUCK?!



YEAH--WE  
FOUND HIM IN  
THE WOODS. HE  
AND THE WOMAN  
ATTACKED US.  
THEY KILLED ERIC  
AND JIM. WE  
FOLLOWED THEM  
INTO THE WOODS...  
THEY GOT DANIEL...  
BUT THEY COULDN'T  
HOLD US OFF  
FOR LONG.

THOUGHT  
YOU MIGHT LIKE  
THE CHANCE  
TO SIT DOWN  
AND HAVE A  
LITTLE *CHAT*  
WITH HIM.

THE GIRL,  
GABE.

WHAT  
HAPPENED  
WITH THE  
GIRL?

SHE BROKE  
AWAY FROM US--  
TOOK OFF FOR  
THE WOODS--





SO I  
BLEW HER  
**FUCKING**  
BRAINS  
OUT.

# LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM

Howdy Walking Dead Weekly Readers,

**Current Editor Sina Grace here, inviting you to another serving of fan mail from yesteryear (or so).**

---

**And that was issue 45... I hope you all liked it.**

**Okay, short letters column this month--the holidays are on the way an I'm trying to get these books out ASAP. I hope you understand.**

**Now, let's move onto the mail.**

Hi Robert,

Another good issue. I was just wondering what ever happened to creating a character guide to print every month in the back of the book promised in a letter column many, many issues back? It would be helpful to have a reminder about who everyone is. It would make the stories even impactful, seeing as how I sometimes forgot how everyone is related to each other. Please consider it or I will have Ant Man cancelled. I have that power.

Kid Kaos

**Well, thanks for cancelling Ant-Man... you'd think that'd give me more time to put together a new character guide--but sadly, it hasn't worked out. I'll see what I can do about getting one in the next issue or so... it's just a matter of having the time to do it, really.**

---

Hello Mister Kirkman,

It's been a while since I last wrote to The Walking Dead. However I have kept up with every issue that has come out. This is still by far my favorite comic. Even when I was between jobs and had to make cuts to what I could and could not do. Walking Dead was the only comic I made sure I still got every month. It's that good.

**Thank you very much--I really appreciate the support.**

I have to say the end of issue 42 left my jaw hanging to the floor. All I could say was, "Holly shit!"

If this had been a TV series I could see this being the major cliff hanger at the end of a season. Leaving everyone wonder what the hell was going to happen until the next seasons started. Good thing this is a monthly comic. I would hate waiting all summer long to see where this is going next.

Great writing, great stories, great comic..... That is until the aliens arrive. Then I'll have to rethink everything.

Eric L. Busby

**Glad you dug it. I hope you enjoyed seeing the EXACT SAME cliffhanger in issue 43 also, heh.**

---

Dear Mr. Kirkinator,

I enjoy reading TWD due to the fact I love zombie anything. The story is amazing, as well as the art. I just have a problem with something. Rick's hand. I'm tired of seeing him bummed out about his stump, "Ohh, I can't play basketball anymore, boohoo. I have a useless stump where there once was a five fingered, useful apendige." I give me a break.

**Have you ever lost a hand? Give the guy a break.**

I think Rick needs to take after a certain well known someone with a ass kicking replacement for a missing hand. I am of course talking about Ash from The Evil Dead series. Now before I get flak about this let me explain. I know a chainsaw would be unrealistic due to the fact there is a shortage of gas (even after the raid on the National Guard Station, it would be a waste), and a robotic hand like the one from Army of Darkness would be out of the question due to the fact Rick could never be as crafty as The King.

So, let's look at what we have to work with. In earlier issues, Rick seemed to wield a hatchet nicely, so hatchet hand? Eh, maybe. I think he would still have the swinging power, as long as they can't get it fastened on there good enough. Groovy? I think so.

Even more outlandish? How about Captain Hook style? Nah, you would have to go through the eye socket with the pointy end and that could be tricky to get out, plus Rick would have to find i pirate uniform to actually look cool.

One of the best ways i think he could go is a bludgeoning weapon. I know they don't have any Medieval maces or spiked balls, but some type of viking-like stone mallet, something with weight that can crush a skull or knock something outta the way. A hammer head would be too small (oversized hammer would look ridiculous)

What about a bladed stump? That would be wicked, long but not too long. If the riot gear could be modified to cover all of his stump a small blade would be decent due to the fact the suits are bite proof. I still say a long blade, but I'm sure Mac wont want to give up her katana.

A lawn mower like from Dead Alive would be too big, plus i don't think they have one. Actually, looking back on that, how the hell would he put that one his hand?

We can even talk about non-combat attachments! Anyone need a bottle opener, can opener, file, toothpick?!? Swiss Army Knife Rick, the ultimate handy man.

Rick needs to capitalize on this so called loss. I'm tired of looking at his plain stump and seeing so much potential. Maybe after it heals up a little more, Rick will start thinking straight and turn into a steel appendaged undead killing bad ass. I still love him though, even though he only has one hand. This would totally take away his feelings of uselessness and sad feelings about his "loss"

In all seriousness, I do believe something should be done with Rick's stump. Whatever you do, keep the TWD coming.

Chris Allgood

PS. Hail to the king baby.

**Just to give you guys a little insight into my creative process--just to pull the curtain aside a bit--this IS something I've put a LOT of thought into. You see--The Walking Dead is a serious book. I think that's a very important part of its success. Aside from the zombies walking around and a few things I've fudged here and there--most of the things that happen in this book COULD happen in real life. It's "grounded" in reality at least for the most part.**

**So yeah, chainsaw hand--totally stupid.**

**BUT, thinking logically... were I in the situation Rick is in... with the one hand and all, at least in a battle situation (like the one we're kind of in now) I'd want to have something there. And realistically it could be done. If he duct taped a butcher knife to his forearm--that could totally work and it could be used for stabbing and cutting. He'd need to have a belt or two on there to hold it on--and a shit load of tape--and it wouldn't last long after being used a few times... but he could get a few good kills in as long as it was fastened well enough.**

**So I was totally going to put a knife on his arm--at least temporarily from time to time. I even discussed this with my good friend Ed (famous) Brubaker. He suggested a sledge hammer instead, because of the long handle that could be used as a counter weight but I think that would be too heavy--it'd slow him down and keep him off balance.**

**But anyway--even though him doing this would be logical, and slightly realistic... it would LOOK a bit silly and I'd never hear the end of Evil Dead comparisons which frankly, I'm already sick of (despite how much I love those movies).**

**So in the end, I decided against it. So (for now at least) he's just going to have a stump... until I change my mind.**

---

Wow.

Suicide by zombie? That's got to be a first, right?

And the saddest part is, it really makes sense for Carol's character, after all the situations she's gone through before.

Wow. Just. . . wow.

Sean Landry

**Eh... technically that dude at the end of Day of the Dead beat me to it... but he was a bit more crazy and really fucked things up for everyone else with his suicide. So Carol's was different. But still... Romero (as always) was blazing the trail.**

---

Hey Kirkman,

The latest Walking Dead- shut my mouth. I had written before saying that it didn't seem feasible for Woodbury to attack (not with all the obstacles in their path) but I never considered that they would be so mobile. I was not so surprised to see the Governor alive because I thought you left something on the table after Michonne exacted her revenge by not feeding him to his daughter. That is his daughter, right?

**That remains to be confirmed.**

The trick now is to see if the Governor is so hell bent on revenge that he would overrun the prison and the fences, compromising the defense that they offer or attack more judiciously. I think the choice has to be made. Does the Governor still want the prison so his people can live there or does he want to kill Rick's lot as quick and painfully as possible? Just thinking ahead.

I loved the movie 28 Days Later but it really stepped up a notch when the Army became as real a monster as the infected (though I am sure there is much debate over that premise). It showed that in 'end times' like this it is not so black-and-white as to who you need to be the most wary of. People (I'm talking about your readers now) have become so complacent with the idea of civilized society that they would most likely assume that in the event of such a crisis all the living would band together, that those that are left would want to carry on with the same prior morality as much as possible. That may not be the case. The Woodbury storyline drove that point home well. And if you look back, you can see that in Rick's character except either Rick has a layer of humanity OR we have been along for the ride with Rick for so long that we tend to give him the benefit of the doubt.

And now that the Governor and Woodbury thread is continuing it appears as if the bloodthirsty readership will be sated. Though I like the more day-to-day stuff this aspect needs to rear its ugly head. Sometime, somewhere we knew it had to get ugly.

Lastly, congratulations on getting back on schedule. I have a slight idea of the effort that must have taken. Most readers probably do not realize all that's involved in putting out a full comic each month, but if they could they would see that a number of things have to fall together. I assume that the larger companies are able to do so because they have more 'lackeys' to do the 'dirty jobs' than a smaller group as y'all.

Again, my condolences for your loss,  
Dawson

**Well, yeah... the schedule is difficult... that's why most independent books are worse off than we are. But y'know... it's part of the job, so we do our best.**

---

Dear Robert,

I am an Italian guy who happened to be in the US for some time and ended hooked up by your Art. I love US and I love The Walking Dead. Now that I am back to Italy I can hardly wait for TWD trades every six months or so. I have been following the online forum and read there all the spoilers before getting the seventh trade, so I think I know almost everything that happened so far.

Zombies are the monsters I like the most, because they can be everyone: your friends, your relatives, the people you love, and even yourself if you let your guard down. But the scariest thing is what people can do to others after an apocalypse like this. TWD is the best Art on zombies since a long time.

Some questions about the series (I don't read the monthly books, just the trades, so I don't know if these questions have already been asked. If so, just disregard them)

1. We know just few things about the characters before the zombie storm (except for Rick). Maybe you could show flashbacks about each one of them, so that we could see what they were doing when the zombies hit the news and started to scratch their front door, up to the point we found them in your books. Pretty much like in the first season of the TV series LOST, where they showed each protagonist's story right before the plane crash. And this could work also for showing the story of the Governor and his people. Is this already planned to be shown? If not, can be?

**Well, we did a flashback issue... but there's no plans to do regular flashbacks for all the characters. It's just not interesting to me. I want to see where they go--not where they've been.**

2. Talking about this, why did you choose to skip the description of the zombie outbreak by starting the story one month after, when Rick wakes up alone in a hospital? The same happened in the movie "28 days later" and I guess that was a choice based on budget (it is expensive to show a civilization crumbling down)... but in a graphic novel you don't have budget limits! You can blow up as many cities as you want! So, what was your reason?

**My reasoning was that. We’ve already seen that a billion times in a billion movies and other stuff. I wanted to get to what people haven’t done very much... the long term effects... show what happens next. That’s the idea behind this book. I try not to do anything that’s been done in anything else.**

3. Have you planned to let people use the radio? I guess batteries are available in a prison, and if not, they have the radios in the cars. Maybe some military radio station is still broadcasting. It would be cool to have hints about the big picture: if there is still a Government and an Army and safe zones somewhere. Will be any of that any time soon?

**Stay tuned. I’ve wanted to keep things pretty contained up to this point--focused on Rick and the rest. We’ll see where we go from here.**

4. There is a growing interest in zombies lately, especially in the US and the UK. In the theaters there are now, or are planned to be, many zombie or zombie-like projects (Resident Evil: Extinction, 28 weeks later, Rodriguez’s Planet Terror, Day of the Dead’s remake). In the bookstores, other than your series, I can’t forget “World War Z”... Why this revival now? Do you think there might be any connection with the war that US and UK are spearheading (more than every other Countries) also in their homelands?

**Fear and unrest breeds stories about the end of the world... so there you go.**

Thanks for the big time you give me with these books. I can’t stop reading them over and over.

Best regards,  
Roberto Dandi

**Thanks for writing.**

---

Hi guys,

Just wanted to do a follow up on that last letter- I had said I was disappointed in the lack of fallout from the group after Carol’s suicide attempt, but I said that wrong. Obviously there was a HUGE initial fallout, with Rick and Tyrese nearly killing each other, what I meant is that I was disappointed in the lack of follow up with how Tyrese and Carol were acting around each other after what happened.

Shana Cuddy, Boston

**Sorry if I misunderstood. Maybe I did drop the ball on that a little... but they just didn’t interact much after that.**

---

Mr. Kirkman,

We’ve hit issue 42 and the Wife and I are still here, reading each new copy with zeal. Do you realize just how big TWD has become? It’s all over any Amazon zombie search, not to mention the rest of the web. Hell, at Christmas my brother asked me if we were reading, wanting to make sure we didn’t miss out. TWD is quickly seating itself into pop culture. I think that’s a tremendous feat for a book not published by the big two. More importantly, in a world currently overwhelmed by zombie fiction (comics, movies, paperbacks) yours stands out as a gem.

**Yay!**

Quickly, enough with the racist rants and the crying about rape. Ok. Come on peeps, it’s a comic, not reality. We’re dealing with a survivalist situation that is going to bring out the best in some folks and the worst in others. It’s that simple. Allow me to use Katrina as an example. Some people helped others, giving them food, shelter, or getting them to safety. Many other people robbed, looted, and preyed on those they say as weak. It’s human nature, IMHO, that when it comes to survival that most of us will show who we really are. I think in this fashion TWD reflects reality fairly close. This is one brutal world. Limbs are coming off willy nilly, people are killing each other for sport,

and all folks can focus on is one rape? I just don’t get it. Is the rape terrible? Sure it is, but so is Dale’s loss of half his leg or Rick’s hand. I don’t see tons of folks writing in about how Kirkman must hate whites. Perhaps it’s time to move on.

You want to talk about fucked up? Lets us talk about Carol allowing the captive roamer to bite her. Now that’s fucked up! Having a romp in the sack with Billy, probably giving him God knows what kind of nightmares, is a serious twist of the knife, ya know? Strange enough, I’m sad to see Carol go. She added some serious drama to the story.

It was cool to see Rick and Lori’s baby born in the prison. New life in a dead world. I have thoughts that Alice is more than a convenient plot addition for the birth. I’m thinking there’s drama to come with Alice. I’m also waiting to see if Hershel’s faith, a faith that seems a little too over the top, leads to trouble at some point. Now Glen and Maggie are trying to conceive, I don’t know but I doubt it will end with a smile.

I have been eager, for months mind you, for the Woodbury attack. Finally! At last they attack and what do I get? Another damn cliff hanger! You are an evil man Mr. Kirkman. Very evil. I’d actually thought about the zombies around the prison and cannot wait to see how they work in the attack. Then again the Woodbury group has a tank. A frikin’ tank!

The world is full of dead people, limbs are flying, some are giving up, and now the only other living people our gang has found in all this time are going to attack them! I say bring it on.

Thanks for keeping us on the edge of our seats.  
Chad and Venessa Cayler

**You tell them Chad and Venessa!**

---

Dear Robert,

I was referred to your book by Daryl, the Owner, of Collection Corner in Burlington NJ. It took me a while to get caught up as I started with issue 11, bought the trades, had a tough time finding issue 28 & 29 which I missed. However, I just finished Issue # 45 and loved every minute of it. Finally, caught up, this is truly a great read.

My first comic was Daredevil # 18 so I have been reading since before Peter saw M.J. I have the entire X-men run but they seem to have gotten very convoluted. I have been spoiled by Miller, Moore, Bendis and now you. I have always been a zombie fan. In fact one of my greatest memories is seeing Night of the Living Dead with Freaks on Halloween at Oklahoma State University back in 1974. This has been such a refreshing book. Thank you for creating such a terrific story and I wish you continued success. I am penning a letter to Invincible as well. Thanks in advance for printing my letter. Go Pokes!

Warm Regards,  
Martin Blazy

**Hmm... I just printed a letter in Invincible about Daryl, the owner of Collection Corner in Burlington, NJ recommending my books. I really should send this guy a Christmas card or something. Oh, wait... you wrote that letter too... I guess it’s just YOU, Martin.**

---

**That’s it for now, kids. Be sure to be back here very soon for the senses-shattering issue 46!**

**Until then!**

**-Robert Kirkman**

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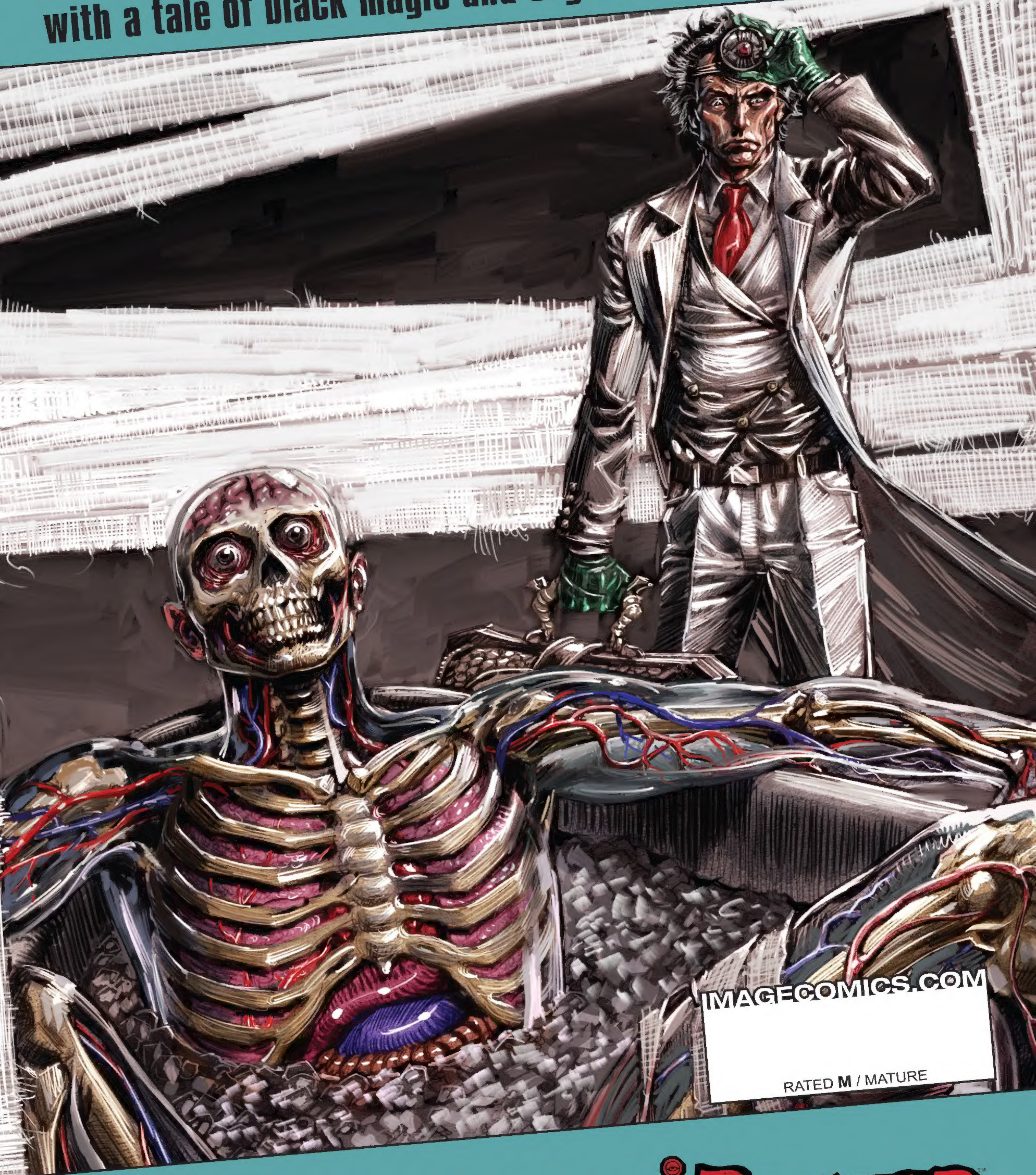


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